

Would you help me do that?

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. To the gentleman, I will always help you work because you explain to me each and every day, and you show us each and every day from the committee to the bill we took up today on the floor when it came up about water. You have the power of the Rules Committee. If you can guarantee me that it's an open rule when it comes to the floor and has open debate, the idea that the Founding Fathers, the idea that the dome of this Capitol, it's the second dome, when did they start building it? During the Civil War, not even knowing if this country would come together. But the idea that the power of this floor, that the idea would be able to work—

Mr. HOYER. Do you know who helped build this dome? Slaves. We thought that was wrong.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. The only person who could actually put the very top together was a slave, because we bought it from the French, and they wanted more money to put the directions together. A slave sat inside and put that monument together. And that's what this body was built on.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. My comment is a very simple question, and you wanted to have an open rule.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I want an open rule. Is that unfair? We just talked about transparency, sir.

Mr. HOYER. I'm talking about the Defense bill and your concern about D.C. vote being added to the Defense bill. My retort to you, because you wanted the Defense bill clean to deal just with the subject matter of defense. That's as I took your question. My response to you was, I think that's a good point.

Would you help me, then, do the same for the D.C. bill, which also stands for democracy, clean, not obstructed by issues which are obviously very controversial, which are not consistent with considering simply the very simple, straightforward question, do the 600,000 citizens of the District of Columbia, American citizens, our neighbors, have the right as our citizens have, of having us have a vote that counts on the floor of the House of Representatives? That's all I was responding to.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. And I was telling you, I will be more than glad to help you as long as it is a clean bill, that you have an open rule, the way the American public believes this floor is supposed to be run, that people could have power of the idea, could actually raise an issue and raise a debate.

I thank the gentleman for the colloquy. But the one thing I would like to lead in with is the last couple of questions. This week the House overwhelmingly voted for the BARNEY FRANK-authored Iran Sanctions Enabling Act. I know you put out a press release about the strong message to Tehran that unless it abides by its international norms, its economic iso-

lation will continue. On the same day we passed the Frank bill, news reports from Moscow indicated that Russia has no stomach for further sanctions against Iran.

Given your praise for the Frank bill and the fact that Russia feels unwilling to go along with new sanctions, is it your intention not to consider Chairman HOWARD BERMAN's Iran sanctions bill this year?

Mr. HOYER. I expect to consider it. The chairman has announced that he expects to consider that, not next week but the week after. I have told the chairman, as I told Mr. CANTOR last week, that I expect to bring it to the floor shortly after it's passed out of committee.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. So should I assume by the end of October, or am I missing something?

Mr. HOYER. He says not next week but the week after. And whenever he passes it, I will bring it out shortly thereafter. So it could either be the last of October or the very first few days of November. So in 2 or 3 weeks at the outside.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Let me make sure I hear you correctly. The committee says, the chairman, it will pass out within the next 2 weeks approximately. And your pledge to the committee chairman was to bring it to the floor directly afterwards within that week?

I yield.

□ 1700

Mr. HOYER. I don't know whether I made a pledge. I am very much for this. I am a cosponsor of that. I want to pass it as soon as possible.

It's been the chairman's judgment as to when to bring it up. He is going to bring it up, and I am going to bring it as soon thereafter as is practical, which I suspect to be a matter of days. But if he passes it on Thursday and if we are not scheduled to be here on a Friday, I don't know that I will schedule Friday; we may pass it Tuesday, but I expect to pass it very shortly after it passes out of committee.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I will make this pledge: I know you asked me for help. I will help you with this bill, too.

Mr. HOYER. This bill, frankly, with all due respect, your help would be nice, but not needed. It's the other bill I need your help on.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Well, I thought that I would put that offer out there to you. When you bring it, I will be there to help you.

I thank the gentleman for his time.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow; and, further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

HANDS ON MIAMI'S MIAMI DAY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding organization, Hands on Miami, for continuing to make south Florida a better place.

Hands on Miami is a unique community service organization created in 1993 that offers opportunities for all to become involved. This year, Hands on Miami will host Miami Day in conjunction with Miami-Dade College on November 7.

Since 1995, Hands on Miami has brought together residents from all over to improve our neighborhoods. It started with 800 volunteers and is now over 4,000 volunteers. They have partnered with United Way, schools and businesses. Ten years ago, Hands on Miami began the innovative Family Volunteer Program to encourage families to participate together in community service events.

As a wife and a mother, I know what a positive impact this effort can have by instilling the values of service at a young age. Let's all sign up for Hands on Miami on Saturday, November 7.

IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS, QUALITY AND CHOICE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we must improve health care affordability, access, quality and choice. We must not, however, pass a sweeping government takeover of health care.

We should just fix what is broken. Medical liability and defensive medicine costs are broken.

Mr. Speaker, we need tort reform. The economic and professional consequences of medical liability lawsuits are driving the practice of defensive medicine.

Here are the facts: medical liability premiums in the United States have reached \$26 billion a year. The average award is \$4.7 million. More than 93 percent of Pennsylvania physicians reported engaging in defensive medicine.

I have cosponsored H.R. 3400, the Empowering Patients First Act, that provides tort reform. There will be no limit to actual economic damages to the patient. There would be a limitation on punitive damages, and they would be determined by a special health care panel that would have judges with health care expertise.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3400 for a first step towards real health care reform.

RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD HONOR GUARD TEAM ON THEIR VICTORY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Minnesota National Guard Honor Guard team for their victory at the Army's recent National Guard Honor Guard competition in Fort Myer, Virginia.

The competition featured eight of the most elite honor guard teams from around the country, testing their knowledge, testing their abilities and performing military funeral honors, uniform items and other aspects of military honors. Properly honoring the men and women who have given their lives and service to the United States demands the utmost commitment, attention to detail, and training.

The Minnesota National Guard holds that commitment in the highest regard, and their victory in this competition is a testimony to that fact. But as we offer our congratulations to the Minnesota honor guard team, let us also remember those who have given their lives in the name of the United States of America and continue today to recognize those that also work and serve to protect our country each and every day.

WE CAN'T BORROW, TAX, AND SPEND TO PROSPERITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, more Americans are looking for jobs, families are in crisis and facing the tragedy of foreclosure.

Yet in Washington, Democrats continue to push their out-of-touch agenda, which will eliminate jobs and tax families and small businesses. Under the Democrat national energy tax, prices will skyrocket to heat and cool homes, drive cars and shop for food.

Under the Democrat Big Government health care takeover, senior citizens are under attack. Families and small businesses will pay more taxes as they are forced to navigate a sea of new regulations and mandates from a health czar.

In the meantime, Democrats are scheming new ways to borrow taxpayer dollars to top this year's record \$1.4 trillion deficit. Such actions will only increase the catastrophe of high unemployment.

We need to end this attack on senior citizens and small businesses. Both parties should work helping our small businesses get families back to work.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ONCE AGAIN POISED TO UNJUSTLY CONDEMN ISRAEL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this week the U.N. Human Rights Council is considering a highly biased and one-sided report on Israel's defense against the attacks of Hamas this past January.

The council, which has been frequently discredited by its coddling of real human rights violators, is back to its favorite pastime, condemning the nation of Israel for defending itself against the attacks of violent terrorist groups like Hamas. Its latest faux crusade will only serve to further undermine any scrap of legitimacy that the body may have left.

If the council votes to condemn Israel and accuse it of war crimes, it's committing a great injustice and allowing itself to serve as a mouthpiece for those who wish to sabotage a true and lasting peace in Israel.

This report is not about human rights abuses. It's about taking biased cheap shots at the nation of Israel and undermining its right as a sovereign nation to defend itself against attacks. The U.S. must continue to stand by Israel, a strong democratic ally in the Middle East.

LET'S GET TO THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon we heard the chairman of the Education Committee really fiery and passionate, fussing, looking over at this side talking about Republicans playing politics and how this side over here had been playing politics with the water bill. There is nothing in playing politics when you are talking about tens of thousands of people being out of work and an important part of the country not being able to produce.

What would be playing politics is when the chairman of the committee finds out that someone opposing the water bill from California has a motion to recognize the University of California, Irvine, for winning the NCAA national championship in men's volleyball and pulls the bill because he opposes the chairman's bill. My friends, that's playing politics, and it is outrageous.

Let's stop the games and get to the work of the people.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AIG'S EXECUTIVE BONUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep outrage over AIG's plans to give \$198 million in bonuses to their employees next March, especially after paying out \$165 million in bonuses earlier this year. Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs is on track to provide a record payout to its executives by the end of 2009 and other firms will undoubtedly follow suit.

Well, I find it infuriating and insulting that these firms continue to reward incompetence and egregious risk-taking with taxpayer money. They have not only received billions in direct Federal bailouts to avert crises largely of their own making, but they also benefited from an array of Federal fiscal policies that have placed increased burdens on taxpayers and our deficit.

These companies must be held accountable for their decisions and for the Federal assistance they only too gladly accepted. That's why I supported legislation to block these bonuses and to ensure that taxpayers receive a full refund. I will continue to press my colleagues and the administration to ensure that as Wall Street again enjoys profitability, American taxpayers also see some reward.

I want to commend Chairman FRANK and the Financial Services Committee for their hard work on the financial regulatory overhaul that is so critically needed in our country to prevent another crisis from happening. I anxiously look forward to seeing this legislation come to the floor very soon. It's clear that our financial system demands commonsense regulation, increased transparency, and improved oversight.

Wall Street CEOs cannot run their businesses assuming that the fruits of success will be entirely theirs to enjoy while the cost of failure will be shared, will be the shared responsibility of the American people. Wall Street's compensation plans can no longer benefit top executives at the expense of their companies, shareholders and employees, and ultimately the American taxpayer.

After all this country has been through, when we have an unemployment rate of 9.8 percent nationally, and especially when 12.8 percent of Rhode Islanders are unemployed, seeing that Wall Street has not learned its lesson is a tremendous disappointment. We have to take action now so that we don't go down this road again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)